

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Specialty Show 31st March & 1st April 2013.

Judge: Jean Malley 'Ainsea' UK

Firstly I wish to thank Tom and Diane Hartney who looked after me and my friend very well. Delightful company, unselfishly giving their time ferrying us from airport to hotel and to show and back. Finally to Washington for our visit. We had some super meals with them, good food and good company, Tom tells a fine tale and kept us amused.. Also for the goody bag given to me by the show committee, including a lovely bottle of wine, thanks. I enjoyed the days at the show, everyone was very friendly and it was nice to see Steve Surfman again, he continues to do such a good job of show photos. Also lovely to see old friends again. I wish to thank my steward Peter Van Brunt. He looked after me very well and efficiently organised the ring, so allowing me to concentrate on the dogs. Thank you Peter.

Well organised show and a great atmosphere, as usual the exhibitors were very sporting and friendly, even if they didn't agree with my decisions. In the eye of the beholder as is said, just my opinion and not written in stone.

Some wonderful hounds presented before me, I really enjoyed having the opportunity to assess them. The quality is generally excellent although there were a few exhibits that didn't come up to the standard, but this is the norm all over the world. I noticed too many stiff pasterns, we all know a dog will break down if there is no spring or flex, this cushion is a necessity. Flying tails and stiff hocks also appeared more than once, but this is nothing new either in any country.

I was particularly thrilled with my bitch line up and discovering the family trend of the winners. I do try to judge to type but it is not always possible, but certainly for the bitches at least, it would have been a travesty of judging had I not found it. To qualify this, of course I am a movement fan too, and a dog must be sound whether it is typical or not. We all know mongrels can move well, but it is no good having a dog that can move well if it doesn't look like the breed it's meant to be, so as long as it was sound and if necessary I did forgive some minor front & rear movement issues, but my winners all had to have good ground covering side gait. As they say if it is built right it will move right. This is true is my opinion and definitely reflected in side movement.

I looked for a sight hound profile, a dog that looked as though he could go all day, pull down prey and hold onto it, Strength in neck of correct length, strong bone and not short on leg or over angulated behind, strong well muscled, not too heavy, and well balanced.

In some classes but mainly the bitches and BOB class, I wished I had at least twice as many awards to give. I know this is a line often said and we wonder if not always meant, but believe me I do.

As is the norm everywhere, the quality of the bitches far outweighs that of the dogs.

Thanks you for bringing your dogs for my assessment, it is always an honour that owners bother to do that, particularly with the long distances travelled by many of you.

My BOB is so beautiful and at 6½ years winning from Veteran, she is in wonderful condition. Glen Myers also did it again with Best BBE and Best Winners. Well done to all my high winners, I was more than pleased with them all.

Thank you all for the opportunity.

Would just like to say that I congratulate you all for your perseverance of the sloping ring, I was just grateful I wasn't an exhibitor having to negotiate it, and amazed not one of you tripped over on the downward slope, well done, but saying this is it still a lovely show site.

Puppy 6-9 months Dogs 3 entries - 1 absent

1st 9 D & J Pitt's Calyddon Motley Knight. 7 months. Tall for his age, head of good proportions, long neck into decent shoulders. Would prefer more forechest and better over-line and croup, but forgive this in such a youngster who is growing fast, all will hopefully settle as he matures. Good straight legs but a little stiff in pasterns, he has a well angulated hind, he moved Ok but as he is new to the ring there is room for improvement as he gains ring experience.

2nd 7 S & V Morfut & P Newgard's Carnasserie Vandeventer's Fiery Aiden. Turned 7 months. Nice youngster but a little overweight and shoulders a little overloaded, although this did not spoil his outline. Head proportions a little heavy .but has a kind expression, Movement promising
I forgive many growth stages at this age, as with 1st.

Puppy 12-15 months Dogs 1 entry

1st 11 M Gallier's Quinlan's Brunswick Stew. 15 months. Lovely outline, very well muscled. Head Ok but prefer a darker kinder eye, good shoulders deep chest and has forechest, Good over-line and adequate rear angulation, but rather too much slope to croup, but this didn't detract from his movement which was good.

15-18 months Dogs 4 entries

1st 19 B Carter/P Sommerstad/Dr C M Carney's Crionnacht Carrickaneena Synge at Armagh. 15 months. Head proportions OK prefer darker eye but expression fine. He has a lovely outline with good shoulders and depth and well ribbed back. Straight legs, good pasterns, strong all through, decent rear angulation, moves well, but for me the view spoiled slightly by tail carriage and slight ring to it.

2nd 15 A Kneaval-Craley & J Simon's Castlekeeper Stoneybrook I Am His Own. 17 months. Very tall dog who stands very upright front and rear but not when moving, he is the best mover in the class. He is quite substantial and well boned, but would like a softer expression.

3rd 13 Dr C M K Carney/ F & H Tydings Crionnacht Carrickaneena Erenn.15 months. Well put together, in good condition. He was phased by his outing so perhaps didn't perform 100%. He moves very well although tail slightly raised but didn't detract.

4th 17 D Williamson's Redtops Late Night Ride of the Hot Rod Lincoln. 15 months. He is lightly built and fine in head, also slightly in awe of the day so another not performing 100%. He moves very well even though a little steep in croup.

Novice Dogs 2 entries

1st 23 J & K Roland's R Noble Ghatt of Eagle. Turned 2 yrs. Very nice hound, with kind expression, strong in neck sitting into a well put together front assembly, adequate rear angulation, he has depth and width all through but prefer slightly more flare to croup, he has super sound movement all ways.

2nd 21 C Atkinson/ D & D Smith's Taleisin's Realta Gheal I Bodach. 2 yrs. Lovely head and expression, strong long neck, straight front, he has a nice outline and croup, movement correct except, very sadly for a high tail carriage,

AOH 2 entry

1st 25 J Queisser's Kellamore Starkeeper Jake. Turned 2 yrs. Head Ok but light eyes in a black dog is a shame. Light in bone. Outline is OK and he has depth, adequate angulation front and rear, moves soundly enough but short stepping.

Breed By Exhibitor Dogs 7 entries - 1 absent

1st 37 D Marx & A Benjamin's Quint of Aerie.3 years. This is my type of hound, albeit he is on the long side but mostly ribbing not overlong in loin. Lovely head and expression, strong in neck into a good front assembly, in fact best so far. Correct rear angulation, width through stifle and through hocks, so important in our breed. In strong well muscled condition Best mover and correct tail carriage.

2nd 29 E M & E B Flannagan's Carrickaneena Antaine Dubh. Coming up 2½ yrs. Another lovely type, kind expression, strong neck into good front, has depth and breadth all through, good topline strong through loin, although to nit-pick, prefer a better set on croup, Good bone width through stifle and hocks, correct angulation well muscled and moves very well.

3rd 27 S Houston McDonald's Dun Myrica No Foolin' I'm Eagle. Almost 2 yrs. This is a great class with another lovely type, super shoulders, also with depth and width all through. In good condition and well balanced. He is exuberant which showed in his high tail carriage, but moves very well otherwise.

4th 33 D & D Smith/ J Giordano's Taleisin's Dea-Mhiotail. Turned 2 yrs. Tall but well balanced, although straighter in angulation. Has substance and is very calm but unfortunately flies his tail on the move.

AM Bred 5 entries - 1 absent

1st 43 B, R & C Johnson's Gladstone's Valentino. 3¾ yrs. Good head and expression lovely dark eyes. Tall dog, very well put together, he is well balanced with depth and width all through, could have a little more forechest. Good bone and correct angulation and moves out well.

2nd 41 J Gagne's Can Ch Starkeeper Glenamadda Fyrenze of Gryffindor SC. Turned 3 yrs. Head proportions OK dark eyes, good front, has forechest and front angulation OK, lacks rear angulation standing high behind so spoiling topline, moves out very well but flies tail.

3rd 45 D & M Milne/D Smith's Taleisin's Realteolai of Wideview. 2 yrs. Head proportions Ok but lacks furnishing and prefer a darker eye. Would like a little better flex to hocks, as it affects rear drive, but this does not detract from his long stride covering the ground.

4th 49 S Irisk's Gather of Aerie. Almost 2½ yrs. Nice head and expression. Would prefer a smoother outline with better rear angulation and flex to hocks, but moves out quite well.

Open Dog 4 entries - 2 absent

1st 51 D & D Smith's Taleisin's Realbhvion. 2 yrs. Very attractive hound, good head but ears a little large, kind expression but prefer a darker eye. He has a good front with forechest, plenty of breadth & depth, good bone, front and rear angulation OK, well balanced. He moves out well.

2nd 53 C S Martin's St Leger Denore. 2 yrs. Lightly built dog, light in bone and would prefer more spring to ribs.

Puppy 6-9 month Bitches 6 entries - 1 absent

1st 8 S Houston McDonald/ J & K Rolland's Dun Myrica Nova of Eagle. 7 months. Lovely outline and set of good length of neck. expression Ok but eyes could be darker. Very promising youngster. Super shoulders and flowing outline. Well balanced with correct angulation for her age, good tail carriage, moving very well. BP

2nd 14 E M & E B Flanagan's Carrickaneena Me Fein. 8 months. Another lovely puppy, close decision, lovely head and expression, neck a little short at present, otherwise well developed, already has depth and width all through, good bone and angulation, moved out well.

3rd 10 D S & J S Pitt's Calyddon Miraude. 7 months. Pretty puppy lovely head, good front assembly and depth, good bone and feet, bit too much rear angulation and a little steep in croup affecting movement slightly.

4th 16 C & K Pohl's Dun Myrica November of Eagle. 7 months. Lovely head, good set of neck into OK shoulders. Has forechest, slighter in build but good rear angulation, but hope she lets down behind as she is short stepping but nicely controlled in her movement.

Puppy 12 - 15 months Bitches 4 entries - 1 absent

1st 22 A & M Dormady's O'Lugh's Amarula. Just 12 months. Stylish youngster, takes your eye. Front and rear well angulated, good shoulders, super length of strong neck. Great outline flows smoothly, moves with drive and economical long strides, very promising.

2nd 20 D Wiseman's Temair Saol An Turas of Quinlan. 14 months. Rangier type, but well put together, good front, shoulders and rear, has depth and a nice outline. Needs to drop a little in her hocks but she is a good type and moves out very well.

3rd 18 D Henry & D Vreekin's Quinlan's Piece of the Pattern. 14 months. Head proportions Ok but light eyes. Outline is OK, shoulders and angulation front and rear adequate, good length of neck, moves reasonably.

15-18 months Bitches 9 entries

Good class close decisions

1st 36 D Marx/A Benjamin & D Brown's Hound Hill Vale of Aerie. 17 months. Beautiful bitch, lovely head and expression, well developed, great front, flowing lines, well angulated rear, good bone, width through stifle and hocks, well balanced, moves out well.

2nd 42 T J Aube's Mor Legal War Emblem of Elkhorn. 16 months Another beautiful type, good head proportions and dark eyes, great front and rear assembly, so well developed, depth, width and outline. Moves out well

3rd 34 D Marx & A Benjamin's Jeepers of Aerie. 15 months Attractive bitch, prefer darker eye, decent shoulders, has depth but prefer more forechest, has breadth through body and width through croup moves out soundly but is short stepping.

4th 28 A Kneaval & J Simon's Castlekeeper Stoneybrook Hallelujah. 17 months. Yet another of good type. Head proportions Ok but prefer darker eye. Good shoulders, but needs more forechest, but has depth and width and a nice outline. Well angulated and moves out well.

Novice Bitches 7 entries – 2 absent

1st 50 D & D Smith's Taleisin's Spriolag. Almost 2½ yrs. Presents a lovely picture although for perfection would like slightly longer neck, but it is strong and set well into good shoulders, she has depth and width, a lovely flowing outline into a broad croup, well angulated front & rear, and moved out with long ground covering strides.

2nd 54 J Gagne's Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh. 2 yrs. Nice type, strong neck into good shoulders. Long upper arm, lovely underline, good tuck up, depth and width. Stands high behind, she has not let down enough in hocks so lacks good rear angulation, but she does move out well.

3rd 46 A & M Dormady/ A Benjamin's O'Lugh Strike a Pose of Aerie. Turned 2 yrs. Much slower maturing bitch, still raw, has super shoulders but front set a little too forward, topline flows nicely, she also needs to drop on her hocks, but moved out well.

4th 56 J & M English's Calcara Damhsoir. 18 months. Very mature looking for her age, shorter on leg so not as well balanced. Angulations are OK front and rear but prefer a longer neck, but she moved out OK.

BBE Bitches 11 entries

1st 60 G H Myer's Kellykerry Kindle of Aerie. 2½ yrs. Such a lovely bitch, well built but feminine. Lovely head and kind eye. Long strong neck sitting into good shoulders, long bones well angulated has forechest and depth. Super outline, flowing into sweeping quarters. Width through croup and down through stifle. Good bone, correct pasterns, well let down hocks, collectively producing economical sound easy active movement. WB

2nd 76 D Marx & A Benjamin's Galena of Aerie. 17 months. Very similar type. Tall substantial feminine bitch, still young but developing well. Good shoulders and outline, depth and width, not quite as flowing as 1st but on similar lines. She moved out very well with drive using her well sprung hocks. RWB

3rd 80 L Dube-Forman & B Forman's. Almost 5 yrs. In super condition, shining coat, well muscled and substantial. Super length of neck and good shoulders. Lovely flowing outline into sweeping quarters, well angulated behind but a little stiff in pastern, moved out very well with long easy strides.

4th 62 E M & E B Flanagan's Carrickaneena Anlon Dubh. Almost 2½ yrs. Similar type to 3rd but a little more angular. Strong bitch but still feminine. Good shoulders and topline, front set a little forward. She had depth and width and generally a very good hound who moves out with verve and long strides sound all ways.

AM Breed Bitches 5 entries

1st 88 D Marx/A Benjamin & G Myer's Kellykerry Keynote of Aerie. 2½ yrs. Tall elegant bitch, She is such a lovely type with extremely good movement that I forgave her need for a little more forechest and slightly less loin. She has a lovely flowing outline. Good long bones, correct rear angulation, long strong neck into good shoulders, she moves out covering the ground with long easy strides. Very attractive.

2nd 90 S Houston McDonald's R Noble Grandin of Eagle. Turned 3 yrs. Super bitch, lovely type again, good shoulders but prefer a longer neck, strong, she has some forechest and is well bodied, strength all through. Broad croup she moves very well true all ways.

3rd 82 D Emerson & A E St Clair's. Hannie of Warwick. turned 3½ yrs. She looks lovely in profile, quite stylish. Nice outline good shoulders. Decent front with depth of chest with a good tuck-up. Adequate angulation front and rear, but her slightly steep croup shortens her stride, although she moves soundly.

4th 86 S & K Brown/ E Powers & C Lursen's Quest Sleeping With the Devil. Almost 4 yrs. Head proportions OK, too level a topline, bit straight in front, too short on leg for length of body so unbalanced, but does move out well.

Open Bitch 10 entries – 2 absent

1st 98 J Gagne's Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne. 3 yrs. Elegant feminine bitch, bit upright in shoulder causing slight overloading. Could take a little more length to neck. Super outline, had depth and sweeping quarters. Good pasterns and feet, broad croup and moved out very well.

2nd 94 D Marx & A Benjamin's July of Aerie. 5 yrs. Lovely outline although rather heavy, prefer longer neck. she has good shoulders and front, more than enough substance and thick coat. Broad croup and width through stifle and hocks. She moves out very well.

3rd 92 E M Flanagan & E B Flanagan's Carrickaneena Greenore. Turned 3 yrs, Lovely bitch, soft expression, good front assembly and topline, squarer flatter in croup making her appear more angular. Good bone and well muscled, moves out well

4th 108 J Carswell & P Newgard's Milly Zver Suok. Turned 3 yrs. Moves well but is somewhat unbalanced, shorter on leg for her length. She has a lovely head and expression, needs longer neck, but has depth and width all through, well muscled, adequate rear angulation, moves out well enough.

Veteran Dog 7 entries - 2 absent

1st 151 J Gagne's BISS GCH Can Ch Starkeeper McEnroe of Limerick. 6¾ yrs. Wheaten dog I have judged before. He is still in good shape although perhaps not holding his topline as well these days. Lovely kind expression, long neck and good front. Has a lovely outline most of the time if he doesn't stand too far back behind. Kindly gentleman who is strong and typical, depth and width. Good bone and pasterns, broad croup moved out very well.

2nd 149 J Fitzgerald's Ch Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick. 8 years. Longer cast and shorter on leg but in excellent condition. Bit flat over topline now. Super front assembly and rear angulation. moved out very well and true all ways

3rd 147 D & M Milne & D Smith's DC Taleisin's Wizard of Wideview FCHm, LCX, GCG, VC. 7 yrs. Tall hound in good condition, nice outline, well built and well muscled and he moves out very steadily and true.

4th 145 B Carter/ S Prokopenko & J Gagne's Am Can Ch Glenamadda Starkeeper Armagh. turned 7 yrs. Well build tall dog in lovely condition and moved out steadily and true. very close decisions for different reasons in this class.

Veteran Bitch 4 entries - 1 absent

1st 152 G Myer's Ch Kellykerry Peony of Aerie. 6½ yrs. Stylish elegant bitch, in fabulous condition, superb outline. Tall and substantial but still very feminine, good head proportions super ear size and held correctly, and kind eye. Long strong neck, super shoulders and forechest, depth of chest and lovely underline and topline, flows into sweeping quarters. Good bone and pasterns, width through stifle and second thigh down to well let down hocks. Good feet. To cap it all she moves out so easily covering the ground with easy and active economical ground covering strides. She still looks as though she could go all day and do the job intended. BOB

2nd 146 A Wright's GCH Glenamadda Starkeeper Unathorne RN. Turned 7 yrs. Very pretty lovely type. Her topline dipping a little today. Had depth of chest but would prefer a little better rear angulation and width through stifle, she moves well and steadily.

3rd 150 A & L King's Ch Ard Rhi's Calida of Castlemain . 6½ yrs Very calm lady, kind expression. Prefer longer neck but she has good shoulders. She is in good condition has depth and well muscled just lower on leg, she moves out well.

BOB Class 20 entries - 3 absent Very strong class of dogs and bitches, wish I had more awards to give.

BOB 152 G Myer's Ch Kellykerry Peony of Aerie See Veteran Bitch. This bitch stood out for me and just the type I could have at home, she is a credit to her breeder/owners.

B Opp Sex 113 D Marx & A Benjamin's Ch Riverlawn Exit of Aerie 3 yrs. Super tall black, great outline, long neck, good front and rear angulation, depth and width, in good gleaming coat, well muscled and topline flows into sweeping quarters, width of croup down through hind. moves very well.

Winners Dog 37 Quint of Aerie

Res Winners Dog 29 Carrickaneena Antaine Dubh

Winners Bitch 60 G H Myer's Kellykerry Kindle of Aerie

Res Winners Bitch 76 D Marx & A Benjamin's Galena of Aerie

Best Winners 60 G H Myer's Kellykerry Kindle of Aerie see BBE Bitch

SEL Dog 119 S Houston McDonald & J & K Roland. GCH Dun Myrica of Eagle. Turned 3 yrs. Attractive hound, well built, looks as though he can go all day as he powered around the ring.

SEL Bitch 130 D Emerson/ A S St Clair & A Benjamin's Ch Warwick Teacht of Aerie. Almost 4 yrs. Very nice type, substantial in good condition, lovely outline and angulation, moves very well.

AOM 151 J Gagne's BISS GCH Can Ch Starkeeper McEnroe of Limerick See Vet Dog

AOM 115 L Dube Forman & B Forman's Ch Ballyhara Danny. Substantial hound, lovely outline, well muscled in excellent condition, conformation and coat. Powered around the ring.

Best Puppy 8S Houston McDonald/ J & K Rolland's Dun Myrica Nova of Eagle See PB

BBE 60 G H Myer's Kellykerry Kindle of Aerie see BBE Bitch

Best Head 98 J Gagne's Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne

Stud Dog 145 B Carter/ S Prokopenko & J Gagne's Am Can Ch Glenamadda Starkeeper Armagh

Brood Bitch 154 Dr K Carney's Crionnacht Carrickaneena Dally SC

Brace 54/98 J Gagne's G Starkeeper Clodagh/G Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne